

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Cargo Terminal has been planned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Chakai side in the second phase of development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport. For this purpose, land measuring 30 acres has been identified for construction of Apron, Taxi track and Cargo Terminal.

(c) Does not arise.

Old Boeing Aircraft in Kolkata Silchar Sector

738. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 25 to 30 years old Boeing aircraft is pressed into service in the Kolkata-Silchar and Silchar-Kolkata sectors three days in a week;

(b) whether Government are also aware that on 11th February, 2007 there was leakage from the roof of an aircraft which caused concern to the passengers;

(c) if so, whether it is a high time that Government should replace the old Boeing aircraft in order to address concern of the passengers and ensure safety; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such snag was reported by Cabin Crew and Cockpit Crew on the aircraft which operated Kolkata-Silchar Flight on 11 February, 2007. However, on 14th February, 2007 water droplets were reported to be falling in the aisle over 1st, 3rd and 21st row as a consequence of condensation of cooled conditioned air without affecting the safety of aircraft and passengers.

(c) and (d) An aircraft can be flown as long as it is maintained as per the schedule approved by DGCA, based on manufacturers planning documents. The fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft is maintained in the state of continued

aiworthiness and the aging fleet modifications are also complied with. However, Indian Airlines plans to take over the B737 routes with the induction of new A319/A320 aircraft in a phased manner.

Irregularity of IC-402 from Kolkata to Delhi

739. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that flight IC-402 from Kolkata to Delhi is regularly irregular;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that passengers are harassed for four to five hours; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to maintain flight schedules in order to free passenger from harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All technical delays and cancellations are investigated to identify cause and remedial action is taken immediately. A meeting of the representatives of operating departments at the Regional level is held every day to review previous 24 hours operations. Engineering delays and cancellations are dealt with promptly. At the base station, delays and cancellations are analyzed to identify repetitive nature of snag. In case a repetitive snag is detected, special maintenance action is immediately taken to ensure that the snag does not persist. At the Headquarters level, the punctuality of services is monitored on a daily basis. Airlines are advised to look after passengers for delays/cancellations as per well laid down guidelines.

Setting up of new airports

740. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the setting up of new airports in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted therefor in each States;